



U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines

Message for U.S. Citizens:

Information on the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

July 10, 2015

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.

The U.S. Embassy Manila is monitoring the recent Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) case in the Philippines and any related incidents in our region. This notice provides guidance and safety precautions for travelers going to or coming from affected countries.

In the Philippines, there are no signs of sustained community-acquired infection. The Philippine Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) is closely monitoring all points of entry in the Philippines to ensure the surveillance of all travelers. All passengers arriving on international flights are required to submit a health screening questionnaire, which includes information about travel history and symptoms of infectious diseases. Passengers who exhibit relevant symptoms may be directed by authorities to further screening and monitoring, which may result in a quarantine of individuals suspected of being infected with MERS-CoV. Authorities may change these screening procedures in the future. The Philippine Department of Health also requests that Filipinos who have recently returned from the Middle East report to the nearest hospital if they experience symptoms of MERS-CoV, which include fever with cough, cold, or sneezing.

The World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend the imposition of any travel or trade restrictions related to MERS-CoV. However, all travelers should maintain a high level of vigilance, especially those traveling to or from MERS-CoV-affected countries. The WHO has published a MERS Fact Sheet, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/mers-cov/en/>, and has also published travel advice on MERS for the Philippines: <http://www.who.int/csr/don/08-july-2015-mers-philippines/en/>.

Please visit the Centers for Disease Control's MERS web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/about/index.html>, for the most up-to-date information on vaccinations and other health precaution procedures, including this notice: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-saudi-arabia-qatar>.

]To obtain Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) travel notices, call the CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) from within the United States, or 1-404-639-3534 from overseas, or visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>.

See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the [Philippines Country Specific Information](#).

Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency. Contact the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines, located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, at +(63) (2) 301-2000, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +(63) (2) 301-2000.

Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).